

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 remain in the application with claims 1, 7, and 8 having been amended hereby and claim 6 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Kawai.

In paragraph 5 of the instant Official Action, claims 6 and 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include claim 6 in its entirety. Claim 6 has been canceled. Similarly, claim 8 has been amended to include the substance of claim 6 in its entirety.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in independent claims 1 and 8, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 8 are now patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Kawai.

Claim 9 depends from claim 8, which now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 6, and this is patentably distinct.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in claims 1 and 8, it is respectfully submitted

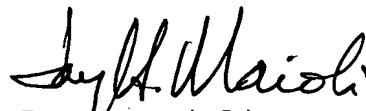
that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

The reference cited as of interest has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay H. Maioli
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JHM:tb